June 30, 2011

To:	Environmental Scientist Manager Acadiana Region-Lafayette, LA Surveillance Division
From:	Environmental Scientist Supervisor Acadiana Region-Lafayette, LA Surveillance Division
Re:	- Crowley Oil Spill Event Al# 176474 LAU006661 Incident # 131413 & 131414 Contact:

On May 28, 2011, the Department received a citizen's complaint (Incident # 131413) concerning diesel observed in a waterway near the Roller Road Bridge in Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana. On May 28, 2011, at approximately 12:30pm, I was contacted by of LDEQ and notified of the incident. I departed for the Acadiana Regional Office to obtain my equipment and vehicle.

At approximately 2:00pm I arrived at the Roller Road bridge site. When I arrived on site numerous Acadia Parish Sheriff's deputies were on site as well as some Crowley Fire Department employees. I exited my vehicle and viewed the water from the bridge. A dark oily material was observed floating on top of the water and strong diesel odors were noted. A drum was observed in the water but it did not appear to be leaking. Not long after I arrived on site, the sheriff's deputies departed the site and the Fire Department employees and I remained on site. I took photographs to document my observations. The Fire Department employees (Deputy Chief and Fireman and I began our search to find the source of the oil.

After several hours, Deputy Chief Fireman and I identified a large above ground storage tank (estimated size 20'H X 15'W) that was located approximately 230' north of the unnamed ditch that goes under West Mills Street (near Southwest Rice Mill). As we examined the above ground storage tank and its location several observations were made:

- 1. Piping was observed on the ground adjacent to the tank. The piping was oily and appeared to have come from the tank.
- 2. A large pile of earthen materials were found stockpiled next to the above ground storage tank.
- 3. A ditch was dug near the storage tank. It was dammed up on one side to prevent materials from flowing onto the Southwest Rice Mill property. The ditch contained oily/diesel materials. Staining was observed on the side of the ditch which indicated the materials had been much higher in the ditch at an earlier time.
- 4. Two railroad crossties were observed crossing the oily/diesel stained ditch. On the opposite side of the ditch a pile of discarded railroad crossties were found.
- 5. Vegetation just south of the above ground storage tank was coated in oily/diesel materials.
- 6. The valve of the tank was located. It had been filled with dirt and rocks and partially buried with earthen materials.
- 7. Oily/diesel materials that flowed out of the tank flowed into an adjacent drainage ditch approximately 15-20' east of the tank. (From there the materials flowed downstream until they eventually flowed into Bayou Blanc.)

A little bit later, State Trooper arrived at the site and investigated that area when the above ground storage tank had released. While was conducting investigation with Acadia Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness arrived on site. brought some maps with but unfortunately the maps to brought to the site with did not indicate who owned the property in question.
In an attempt to locate a responsible party, Deputy Chief began calling businesses in the area from fire plan information had. The first person contacted was I of G&H Seed. After viewed the property tated that thought that the property in question belonged to either Acadiana Railway or to provided us with a telephone number for Acadiana Railway and attempted to provide us a telephone number for but that number was not published.
Deputy Chief contacted via telephone. Deputy Chief stated that wher questioned about the situation, admitted employees caused the release. Deputy Chief requested presence at the site.
When Chief Fireman arrived at the site informed us Deputy Chief Fireman and I) that had hired a crew to clean up the property and improve drainage at the request of Acadiana Railroad. The tated that while the crew was digging a ditch with a mini backhoe (that the ented from Stein's Lumber) the crew hit the above ground storage tank and caused a small spill yesterday. I informed that the spill was not a small spill and that the materials had already hit Bayou Blanc. Trooper the name of the company thired to dig the ditch. The property and the p

whether or not the company paired to dig the ditch was insured. Again responded that did not know. Trooper divised hat since the crew hired caused the release that would have to hire a clean up contractor and clean up the spill and that I could provide with a list of clean up contractors. It is acknowledged that although the crew hired caused the release. It didn't own the tank or the property on which the tank was located. It told us that thought the above ground storage tank belonged to Acadiana Railway. It began making calls to for Acadiana Railway. It could not be reached. During the conversation, for told us that had considered scrapping the tank a while back but when "they" banged on the tank "they" realized the tank was not empty so for the tank was not empty so for the tank and that all persons involved or with knowledge of the release and so did the crew whired and that all persons involved or with knowledge of the release had a duty to report the release. The Fire Department representatives brought over to the tank so could see the area of concern.
While was viewing the tank, I contacted or advice. While talking to arrived back to the location where Trooper and I were waiting. Trooper approached while I was on the phone with rooper indicated that stated that the tank was not or property and that although crew caused the release wasn't going to sign anything or hire anyone. After hanging up with told all of us that the tank was a time bomb waiting to happen. Stated that I could contact a clean up contractor and that things could be settled later but that was not going to be held solely responsible.
A few minutes later called back and I updated on the situation at the site. Stated that understood our position, but that wasn't responsible for the clean up. I explained to again that rew caused and allowed the spill to occur, that they did not adequately contain the spill and did not secure the tank after causing the release. Finally, of Acadiana Railway called back. Informed us that stated that was sure this wasn't our first time where there was a difference of opinion over responsibility. I informed that in all my years with DEQ I personally had never had a case where the responsible party didn't step up and accept responsibility for clean-up informed me that wasn't signing anything and that wouldn't be left holding the bag. Trooper and I made several more attempts/requests to get to do what needed to do to start the clean up of the site. The refused, but before leaving the site, took down the name and number of one clean up contractor from the list I provided
After legal departed the site, Deputy Fire Chief and fireman assisted me in defining the plume.

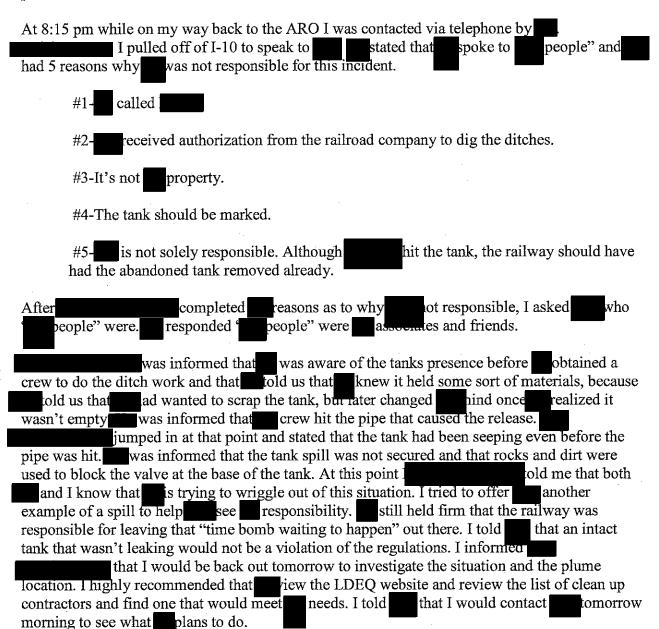
The tank is located at 30° 12' 9.3"N and -92° 23' 1.9"W

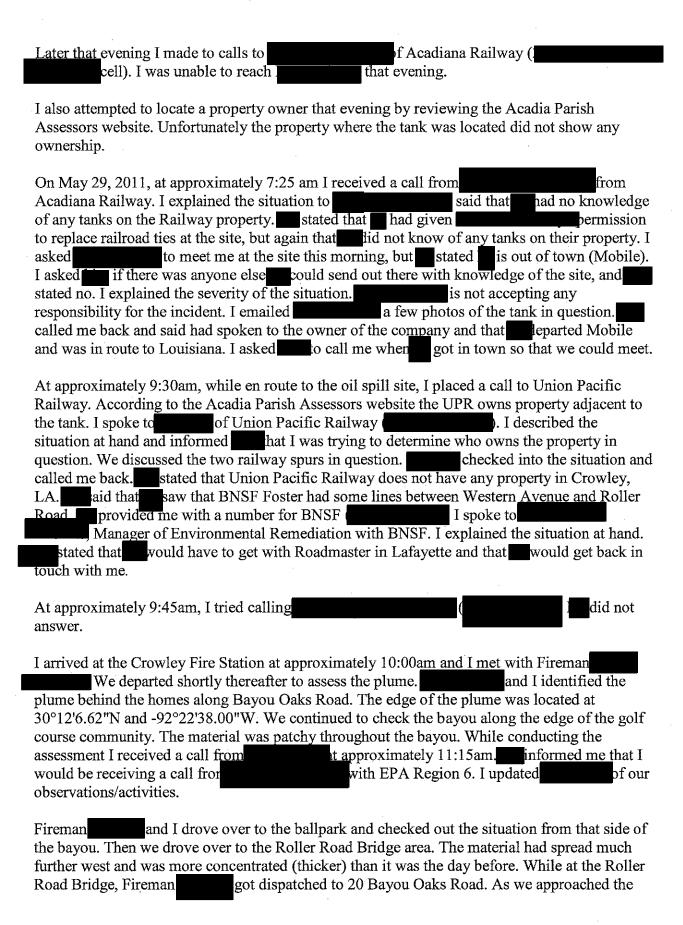
Thick concentrated materials observed in an unnamed ditch located at 30° 12' 6.8"N and -92° 23' 1.0"W – (~30 yards south of the tank)

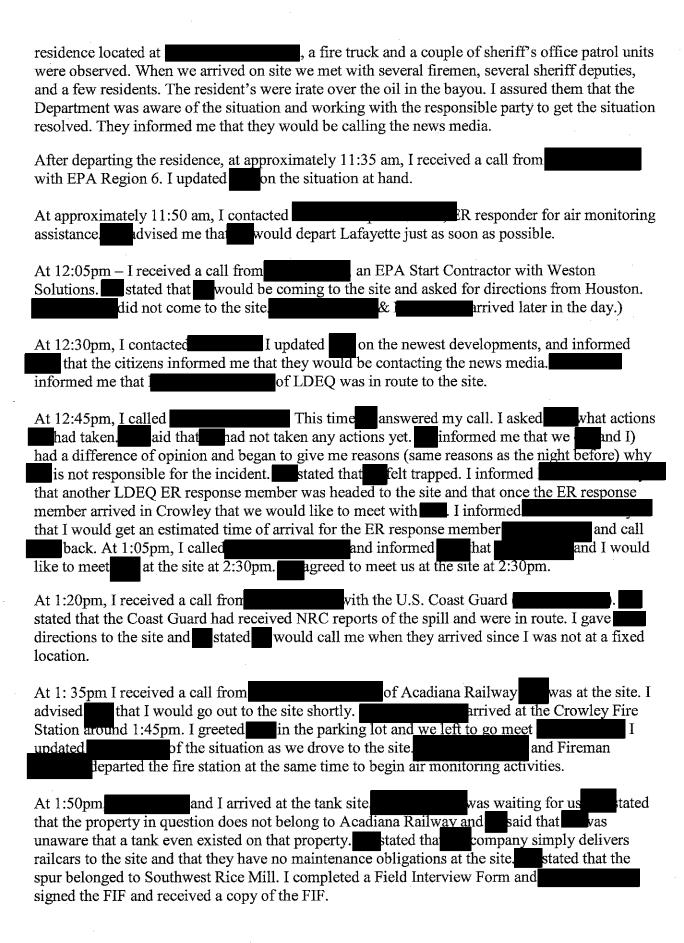
Materials flowed south and west into Bayou Blanc. Thick and strong smelling materials were observed at 30° 11' 35.7"N and -92° 23' 17.2"W.

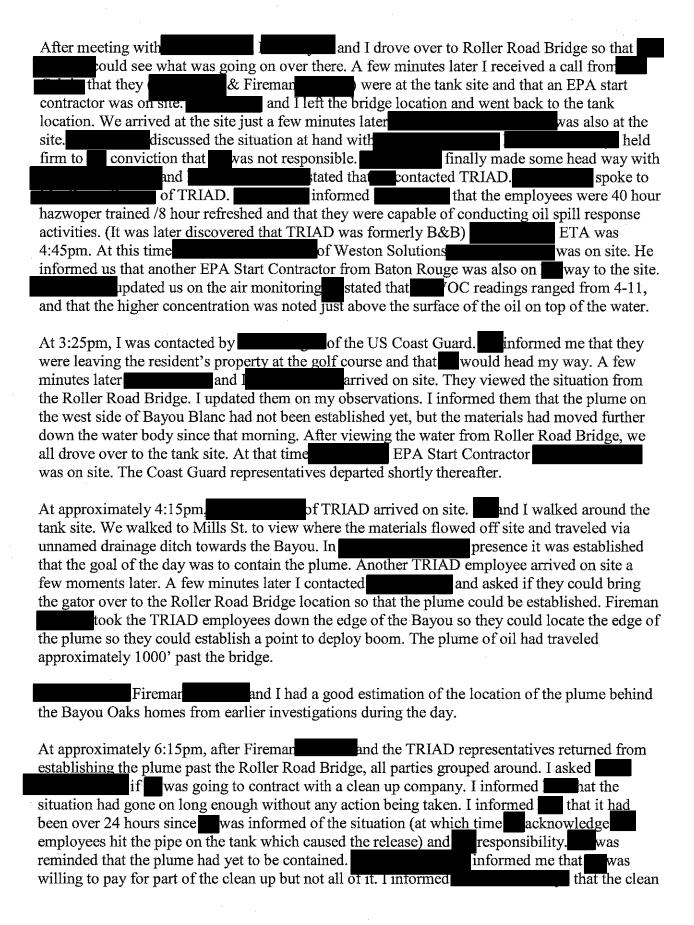
The materials flowed south and east behind the Hensgens ballpark where tournaments/games were taking place. The plume traveled to 30° 12' 7.8"N and -92° 22' 39.6"W. The plume was traveling towards the Bayou Bend Golf Course community.

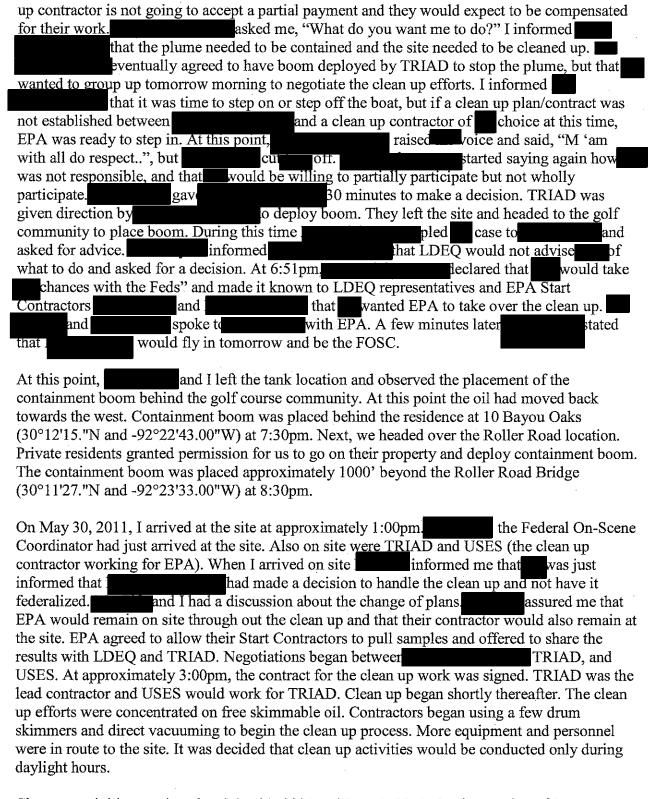
Before leaving Crowley, Firemar of the plume.











Clean up activities continued on May 31, 2001 and June 1, 2011. On the evening of June 1, 2011, the clean up became federalized. EPA took over the control of the clean up operation. The

TRIAD began working for USES. The clean up continued daily. During one of the days that I of LDEQ, was overseeing activities the site called in to the ARO to report that the top of the storage tank had been removed. the residual line of the materials inside the tank was approximately 7' from the top of the tank thus the tank was approximately 2/3 full when it was released. stated that based on information had received had determined that the tank was a 440 barrel in size. Iso stated that base of the tank still contained $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 feet of sludge. informed me that based on alculations approximately 11,000 gallons were released from the tank. Before emptying the tank the EPA Start Contractors sampled the materials in the bottom of the tank. They agreed to share the analytical data with LDEQ. Clean up activities continued daily until June 16, 2011, when the clean up was deemed complete by the FOSC. Only some sorbent boom remained in the bayou. It was decided that the sorbent boom would remain in place until the first rain event to make sure that the clean up was 100% complete. During the clean up approximately gallons of free skimmable oil was collected. The oil and oily wastewater were shipped to the TRIAD facility for recovery.

roles of the clean up contactors reversed. USES became the primary clean up contractor and